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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
DHA-02 ACDA-07 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN FROM DERIAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, AR
SUBJECT: DERIAN CALL ON PRESIDENT VIDELA

1. U.S. COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PATRICIA DERIAN,
MET WITH ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA FOR 35 MINUTES
MORNING OF AUGUST 9. DIALOGUE WAS FRIENDLY AND COUCHED
IN GENERAL TERMS. VIDELA APPEARED NERVOUS.

2. MAIN POINTS MENTIONED BY PRESIDENT VIDELA WERE:
(1) THAT HE WELCOMED MRS. DERIAN'S VISIT AS DEMONSTRATION
OF HER DESIRE TO PERSONALLY UNDERSTAND ARGENTINA'S
PROBLEMS, (2) THAT ARGENTINA HAD COME A LONG WAY FROM THE
SITUATION OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHAOS INHERITED BY
THE MILITARY, (3) THAT IS WAS THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S
GOAL TO OVERCOME THE THREAT OF SUBVERSION TO ARGENTINA'S
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TRADITIONAL VALUES OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND LIBERTY AND
(4) THAT THEY NEEDED MORE TIME. PRESIDENT VIDELA STATED THAT
THE ARMED FORCES HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS AGAINST
SUBVERSION AND, WHILE THERE ARE STILL SOME LEFTOVERS OF
TERRORISM AND ISOLATED ACTS OF VIOLENCE, THE PEOPLE OF
ARGENTINA ARE MANIFESTING A SOCIAL DISCIPLINE WHICH SHOWS THEY
HAVE REJECTED THE MESSAGE OF THE SUBVERSIVES AND UNDERSTAND THE
OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO POINTED TO THE DROP IN
INFLATION AS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. HE
SAID HE KNOW IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR SITUATION AND THANKED MRS. DERIAN FOR
HER WORDS OF SUPPORT FOR THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WITH WHICH HE
HAS BEEN CHARGED PERSONALLY, NOTING THAT HER WORDS HELP HIM TO
PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOOD DESTINY OF HIS COUNTRY. HE WELCOMED
MRS. DERIAN'S RETURN AT ANYTIME TO CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK OF
ENCOURAGING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

3. MRS. DERIAN (1) EXPLAINED HER DESIRE TO HAVE A DIRECT
UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARGENTINE SITUATION, (2) SAID THAT SHE
SAW A SHIFT IN ARGENTINA AWAY FROM THE STATE OF BEING
BELEAGUERED AND AT WAR WITH TERRORISTS, (3) WELCOMED THE
THINGS PRESIDENT VIDELA HAS SAID ABOUT RETURNING TO PEACE AND
DEMOCRACY, (4) NOTED THIS WAS A DIFFICULT TRANSITION AS A
CERTAIN LEVEL OF INTERNAL TENSION REMAINS, (5) NOTED THAT THIS
WAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR VIDELA WHOSE LEADERSHIP WAS

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
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_____ obtained _____ not obt.
IPS by JD Date 10-27-96

SIGNIFICANT AND WHOSE OWN INTENTIONS WERE CLEARLY AND WIDELY UNDERSTOOD, AND (6) STRESSED THAT AS THE COUNTRY MOVES BACK TO THE RULE OF LAW IN THE NORMAL SENSE, PEOPLE WILL BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE GOVERNMENT. MRS. DERIAN PRAISED THE PRESIDENTS' DIRECT APPEAL TO THE HIGH IDEALS FOR WHICH THE COUNTRY STANDS. SHE AGREED WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT THE PEOPLE LOOK TO THE MILITARY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM IN A TIME OF CRISIS AND THEN WISH IT TO TURN POWER BACK. WITH THE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS

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IN ARGENTINA, SHE STRESSED THE NEED TO FIND WAYS OF KEEPING THE GOOD WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

4. MRS. DERIAN ALSO NOTED THAT HER DISCUSSIONS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN INTERESTING BUT A LITTLE FRUSTRATING. SHE NOTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS A DIFFICULT SUBJECT TO DISCUSS BUT SAID SHE BELIEVED THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE USEFUL AND SAID SHE WOULD BE BACK. SHE PARTED WITH WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON. CHAPLIN

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Document Information	
DOC_NBR	1977BUENOS05889
FILM	D770290-0318

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